DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 307 363 UD 026 787

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TITLE Homeless Student State Plan.
INSTITUTION Connecticut State Board of Education, Hartford. Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services.
PUB DATE 8 Mar 89
NOTE 35p.; Best copy available.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Access to Education; Adolescents; *Child Advocacy; *Child Welfare; Educational Needs; Elementary Secondary Education; Federal Aid; Grants; *Homeless People; Program Proposals; State Programs
IDENTIFIERS *Connecticut; *Stewart B McKinney Homeless Assistance Act

ABSTRACT

This grant application requests $50,000 from the Federal Government under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Title VIIB, for the Connecticut State Department of Education to continue the Office of Coordinator of Education and Homeless Children and Youth for fiscal year 1989-90. Based on data collected by the State Departments of Human Resources, Children and Youth Services, and Education, it was determined that approximately 3,555 school-aged children were served by the State's homeless shelters in 1987-88 and this number is expected to increase. The Coordinator will continue to provide the following services that will assure access to education for homeless children: (1) gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth; (2) identify the nature and extent of problems in placing homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools; (3) identify difficulties in programming to meet the special needs of such children; (4) develop and implement the State Plan to provide for the education of each homeless child in the state; and (5) serve as representative from the State Department of Education to the State Interagency Council on the Homeless sponsored by the Department of Human Resources. (FMW)

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ED307363

# CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
# HOMELESS STUDENT STATE PLAN

by Robert E. Blesh

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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XII. I.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED
March 8, 1989

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 722 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII-B, approves the application entitled "Education of Homeless Children and Youth" and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved_____ Rejected_____
Date Date

UD 026 787.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Gerald N. Tirozzi, Commissioner

SUBJECT: State Educational Agency Program for Education of Homeless Children and Youth, FY 1989-1990 Grant Application

I am recommending approval of the attached application entitled "Education of Homeless Children and Youth" pursuant to Section 722 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII-B. Funds are made available to state educational agencies for a one year period for the purpose of collecting data on the state's population of homeless children and youth and developing and carrying out a state plan to provide for their education.

The funding level proposed for fiscal year 1989-90 is $50,000. The funds will enable the Connecticut State Department of Education to do the following:

1. Continue the office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth;

2. Gather data on the number of homeless children and youth;

3. Identify the nature and extent of problems in the placement of homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools;

4. Determine the difficulties in identifying the special needs of such children; and

5. Develop and carry out a state plan to provide for the education of each homeless child or homeless youth within the state.

Deadline for submission to the United States Department of Education is April 30, 1989. Applications will be processed as they are received. This will be the second year of this grant program.

Copies of the application are available for review in the Office of the Commissioner.

Prepared by: Robert E. Blesh
Robert E. Blesh, Coordinator
Homeless Children & Youth
Bureau of Special Education
& Pupil Personnel Services

Frank Limauro
Frank Limauro, Acting Chief
Bureau of Special Education
& Pupil Personnel Services

Reviewed by:
Robert I. Margolin
Director, Division of
Education Support Services

March 8, 1989

ABSTRACT OF THE GRANT APPLICATION
EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PROGRAM

1. Statutory Reference and Common Name
Section 722 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII-B

2. Period of Time Covered by Plan/Application
April 30, 1989 to April 29, 1990

3. Purpose of Program
This program has two major purposes in accordance with the requirements in Section 722 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. The program will collect and analyze data relating to the placement of homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools. Secondly, the State Department of Education will begin to implement the state plan.

4. Relationship of Program to State Board of Education Goals and Objectives
Three of the State Board of Education goals directly apply to this program and will be addressed in the activities to be undertaken by the state educational agency program for the education of homeless children and youth for the grant period.

Goal One: To Ensure Equity for Each Child

The state plan ensures that education will be provided for homeless children and youth regardless of where they live. They will have identifiable, adequate and appropriate services. The provision of continued educational opportunities will assist in our efforts to prevent the youth from becoming school dropouts.

Goal Six: To Improve the Quality of Instruction and Curriculum

Each homeless child will be provided with the educational services for which he or she is eligible, such as compensatory educational programs for the disadvantaged, educational programs for the handicapped and students with limited English proficiency, programs in vocational education, and programs for the gifted and talented.

Goal Seven: To Report on the Condition of Education in Connecticut

The program will gather data on the number of homeless children and youth. Such data gathering will include the nature and extent of problems in the placement of homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools and the difficulty in identifying the special needs of such children.

5. Target Population

The records of the State Department of Human Resources and the Department of Children and Youth Services indicate that 3,555 school-aged children were served by the state's family and youth shelters in FY 1987-88. The

records for the current fiscal year indicate that this total will increase. At this time we can estimate that between 4,000 and 4,300 homeless children and youth are in need of services.

6. Agencies Eligible to Submit Plan/Application
State education agencies

7. Amount of Funds Requested/Amount of Entitlement
The Connecticut State Department of Education is requesting $50,000 for a one-year period.

8. State Matching Funds Required
None

9. Impact on State Board of Education Budget
None

10. Percentage of Funds for State Administration
100%. This grant program is specifically designed for state administration purposes.

11. Percentage of Funds Distributed to LEAS
Zero percent. Funding for local districts is not available under this section of the Act. Grants for exemplary programs may be made available under the provisions of the Act for which local school districts would be eligible to apply.

12. Manner in Which Funds are to be Distributed (if by RFP, indicate major criteria: If by formula, Indicate Components and Their Relative weights)
Not applicable

13. Manner in Which Proposed Activities are to be Evaluated
Activities of the program coordinator will be monitored through the Planned Program Evaluation System.

14. Results of Evaluation of Past Activities Included:

- Data gathering on the number of homeless children and youth in the state;
- The development of a state plan for implementation;
- The identification of the nature and extent of placing homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary school;
- Providing technical assistance to local school districts and shelter providers concerning the educational needs of homeless children and youth; and
- Serving as the State Department of Education's representative to the State Interagency Council on the Homeless.

# FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION (Mark appropriate box)
- ☐ NOTICE OF INTENT (OPTIONAL)
- ☐ PREAPPLICATION
- ☐ APPLICATION

2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION IDENTIFIER — a. NUMBER — b. DATE (Year month day) 19

3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER (STATE TO BE ASSIGNED BY STATE) — a. NUMBER — b. DATE ASSIGNED (Year month day) 19

Leave Blank

4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT
- a. Applicant Name: Connecticut State Department of Education
- b. Organization Unit: Bureau of Special Education/Pupil Personnel Sv
- c. Street/P.O. Box: 25 Industrial Park Road
- d. City: Middletown — e. County: Middlesex
- f. State: Connecticut — g. ZIP Code: 06457
- h. Contact Person (Name): Robert E. Blesh
- i. Telephone No.: (203) 638-4272

5. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN)

6. PROGRAM (From CFDA) — a. NUMBER: 8 4 . 1 5 8 — MULTIPLE ☐ — b. TITLE: Training Personnel for the Education of the Handicapped

7. TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

- ☐ 84.025E - Special Educators
- ☐ 84.025O - Leadership
- ☐ 84.025E - SPECIAL POPULATIONS
- ☐ 84.025P - Related Services
- ☐ 84.025Q - Transition
- ☐ 84.025A - Low Incidence
- ☐ 84.025J - Rural
- ☐ 84.025K - Special Projects
- ☐ 84.025M - Personn
- ☐ 84.025G - Infants

8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT — Enter appropriate letter ☐

9. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, states, etc.)

10. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING

11. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE — Enter appropriate letter ☐

12. PROPOSED FUNDING

| | |
|---|---|
| a. FEDERAL | $ 50,000 .00 |
| b. APPLICANT | $ .00 |
| c. STATE | $ .00 |
| d. LOCAL | $ .00 |
| e. OTHER | 50,000 .00 |
| f. TOTAL | $ .00 |

13. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:
- a. APPLICANT: Statewide
- b. PROJECT: Statewide

14. TYPE OF APPLICATION — Enter appropriate letter A

15. PROJECT START DATE (Year month day): 19 89 04 30

16. PROJECT DURATION (Months)

17. TYPE OF CHANGES (For item 14 or 15) — Enter appropriate letter(s) ☐☐☐

18. DATE DUE TO FEDERAL AGENCY (Year month day): 19 89 04 30

19. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST: U.S. Department of Education

20. EXISTING FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

a. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT (IF APPROPRIATE): Application Control Center

b. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT (IF KNOWN)

c. ADDRESS: Washington, D.C., 20202

21. REMARKS ADDED ☐ Yes ☐ No

22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT: To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.

a. WAS THIS NOTICE OF INTENT/PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE _____

b. NO, PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372 ☐
OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW ☐

23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE
- a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE: Gerald N. Tirozzi, Commissioner of Education
- b. SIGNATURE

24. APPLICATION RECEIVED (Year month day) 19

25. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

26. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION

27. ACTION TAKEN
- ☐ a. AWARDED
- ☐ b. REJECTED
- ☐ c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT
- ☐ d. RETURNED FOR E.O. 12372 SUBMISSION BY APPLICANT TO STATE
- ☐ e. DEFERRED
- ☐ f. WITHDRAWN

28. FUNDING

| | |
|---|---|
| a. FEDERAL | $ .00 |
| b. APPLICANT | $ .00 |
| c. STATE | $ .00 |
| d. LOCAL | $ .00 |
| e. OTHER | $ .00 |
| f. TOTAL | $ .00 |

29. ACTION DATE (Year month day) 19

30. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number)

31. STARTING DATE (Year month day) 19

32. ENDING DATE (Year month day) 19

33. REMARKS ADDED ☐ Yes ☐ No

NSN 7540-01-028-4102 PREVIOUS EDITION IS NOT USABLE

424-102

STANDARD FORM 424 PAGE 1 (Rev. 4-88) Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

DETACH AND, AS NECESSARY, STAPLE TO ABOVE SHEET.

SECTION IV--REMARKS (Please reference the proper item number from Sections I, II or III, if applicable)

NOTE: If person responsible for grant negotiations is different from person named in Item 4h, please identify by name and phone number in this space.

name: _____

phone: _____
(area code) (number) (extension)

# ASSURANCES

The Applicant hereby assures and certifies that it will comply with the regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements, as they relate to the application, acceptance and use of Federal funds for this federally-assisted project. Also the Applicant assures and certifies:

1. It possesses legal authority to apply for the grant; that a resolution, motion or similar action has been duly adopted or passed as an official act of the applicant's governing body, authorizing the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

2. It will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and in accordance with Title VI of that Act, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant receives Federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.

3. It will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) prohibiting employment discrimination where (1) the primary purpose of a grant is to provide employment or (2) discriminatory employment practices will result in unequal treatment of persons who are or should be benefiting from the grant-aided activity.

4. It will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

5. It will comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

6. It will comply with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

7. It will comply with requirements of the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provides for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs.

8. It will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act which limit the political activity of employees.

9. It will comply with the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, as they apply to hospital and educational institution employees of State and local governments.

10. It will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that is or gives the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have family, business, or other ties.

11. It will give the sponsoring agency or the Comptroller General through any authorized representative the access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.

12. It will comply with all requirements imposed by the Federal sponsoring agency concerning special requirements of law, program requirements, and other administrative requirements.

13. It will insure that the facilities under its ownership, lease or supervision which shall be utilized in the accomplishment of the project are not listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of Violating Facilities and that it will notify the Federal grantor agency of the receipt of any communication from the Director of the EPA Office of Federal Activities indicating that a facility to be used in the project is under consideration for listing by the EPA.

14. It will comply with the flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, P.L. 93-234, 87 Stat. 975, approved December 31, 1976. Section 102(a) requires, on or after March 2, 1975, the purchase of flood insurance in communities where such insurance is available as a condition for the receipt of any Federal financial assistance for construction or acquisition purposes for use in any area that has been identified by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development as an area having special flood hazards. The phrase "Federal financial assistance" includes any form of loan, grant, guaranty, insurance payment, rebate, subsidy, disaster assistance loan or grant, or any other form of direct or indirect Federal assistance.

15. It will assist the Federal grantor agency in its compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), Executive Order 11593, and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1 *et seq.*) by (a) consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer on the conduct of investigations, as necessary, to identify properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that are subject to adverse effects (see 36 CFR Part 800.8) by the activity, and notifying the Federal grantor agency of the existence of any such properties, and by (b) complying with all requirements established by the Federal grantor agency to avoid or mitigate adverse effects upon such properties.

The following are additional assurances from the Statute and General Education Provision Act (GEPA).

STATUTE:

1. The application is the basis for State operation and administration of the program.

2. The State will use the grant funds in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

3. Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth will have access to a free, appropriate public education which would be provided to the children of the residents of the State and is consistent with the State school attendance laws.

4. In any State that has a residency requirement as a component of its compulsory school attendance laws, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws to assure that the children of homeless individuals and homeless youth are offered a free and appropriate public education.

5. The State will establish or designate an Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth to carry out the functions as described in Section 722(d) of the Act.

6. The State will develop, submit to the Secretary, and carry out a State plan as described in Section 722(e) of the Act.

7. The State will gather data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the State. Such data gathering will also include information on the nature and extent of problems of access to, and placement of, homeless children and homeless youth in elementary and secondary schools, and the difficulties in identifying the special needs of such children.

8. The State will prepare and submit to the Secretary an interim and final report on data gathered in paragraph (7) above.

GEPA

1. The State will administer the program in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, the State plan and the application.

2. The State will control the funds provided under this program, and title to property acquired with these funds will be in a public agency.

3. The State will adopt and use proper methods of administering the program including the following:

   (a) The State will monitor agencies responsible for carrying out the program and enforce any obligations imposed on those agencies under the law;

   (b) The State will provide technical assistance, if necessary, to those agencies;

   (c) The State will encourage the adoption of promising or innovative education techniques by those agencies;

   (d) The State will disseminate throughout the State information on program requirements and successful practices; and

   (e) The State will correct deficiencies in program operations that are identified through monitoring or evaluation.

4. The State will evaluate the effectiveness of covered programs in meeting their statutory objectives,at such intervals (not less often than once every three years) and in accordance with such procedures as the Commissioner may prescribe by regulation, and that the State will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each program conducted by or for the Secretary or other Federal official.

5. The State will use fiscal control and funds accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursements of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to the State under this program.

6. The State will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by local agencies, representatives of the class of individuals affected by this program, and other interested institutions, organizations,and individuals in the planning for and operation of the program, including the following:

   (a) The State will consult with relevant advisory committees, local agencies, interest groups, and experienced professionals in the development of the State's plan.

(b) The State will publish the proposed State plan, in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State, at least 60 days prior to the date on which the plan becomes effective, whichever occurs earlier, with an opportunity for public comments on the plan to be accepted for at least 30 days.

(c) The State will hold public hearings on the proposed State plan.

(d) The State will provide an opportunity for interested agencies, organizations and individuals to suggest improvements in the administration of the program and to allege that there has been a failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations.

7. The State will not use funds to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization.

8. The State will maintain records - including records required under Section 437 of GEPA - and provide access to those records as the Secretary decides is necessary to perform his or her duties.

The Chief Executive Officer of the State assures that:

The funds made available under Section 722 of the Act shall be used in accordance with the requirements of the Act, all applicable statutes and regulations, the State plan, and the assurances set forth in this application.

Chief Executive Officer _____ Date _____

The state educational agency also assures that:

The funds made availab e under Section 722 of the Act shall be used in accordance with the requirements of the Act, all applicable statutes and regulations, the State plan, and the assurance set forth in this application.

For the State Educational Agency Signature and Title _____ Date _____

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act provides a broad spectrum of programs to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families. Included in the act is a provision for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The State Department of Education is requesting $50,000 to continue the Office of Coordinator of Education and Homeless Children and Youth for fiscal year 1989-90.

Based on the data collected by the shelter providers for the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Children and Youth Services and the Department of Education, it was determined that approximately 3,555 school-aged children were served by the State's homeless shelters in FY 1987-88. An analysis of the records for this fiscal year indicated that this total is increasing, a reflection of the growing problem of homelessness in the state. These figures are undoubtedly an under-estimation since the shelters do not serve all the homeless children and youth in the state.

The laws of the State of Connecticut assure that each child has access to a free public education. It is most important to ensure that homeless young people take advantage of this opportunity and continue their schooling.

The Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth will, during FY 1989-90, continue to:

- gather accurate data on the number and location of homeless children and youth in the state;
- identify the nature and extent of problems in placing homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary schools;
- identify difficulties in programming to meet the special needs of such children;
- develop and implement the State Plan to provide for the education of each homeless child or youth within the state; and
- serve as a representative from the State Department of Education to the State Interagency Council on the Homeless sponsored by the Department of Human Resources.

PART III - BUDGET INFORMATION
FY 1988-89

Section A - Detailed Budget by Categories

| | |
|---|---|
| Salary and Wages | $ 48,500 |
| Fringe Benefits | |
| Travel | 1,000 |
| Equipment | |
| Supplies | 500 |
| Contractual Services | |
| Other (itemize) | |
| Total Direct Costs (lines 1 to 7 totaled) | |
| Total Indirect Costs | |
| Total Project Costs (lines 8 + 9) | 50,000 |

## Budget Narrative

### Contractual Services

A Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth will be employed under a personal services agreement for 190 days at a rate of $200 a day for a total expenditure of $38,000.

$10,500 is requested to provide clerical assistance.

### Travel

$1,000 will be required to reimburse the coordinator for travel to fulfill the designated responsibilities of the program. The standard state reimbursement rate is $.24 a mile.

### Supplies

$500.00 is requested for office supplies and materials.

# CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
# HOMELESS STUDENT STATE PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, now P.L. 100-77, is the first comprehensive federal law dealing with the problems of homelessness in America. It provides for nearly twenty different programs to address the needs of homeless people, including educational programs for adults, children and youth.

The McKinney Act's Education of Homeless Children and Youth Provision (Mandates) that homeless children and youth should have access to free, appropriate public education on an equal basis with other children. It authorizes grants to states to collect information on the number and needs of homeless children, to identify problems that prevent them from receiving an education and to develop plans to overcome such problems.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) assumes responsibility for identifying and removing any educational barriers which exist for homeless students in the state. The Department has established the Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth and has appointed a coordinator charged with the responsibility of implementing the educational

standards prescribed in the federal act. The coordinator is responsible for developing the state plan, for identifying and recommending needed policies, for supplying data requested by the federal government, and for working with local school districts, related state agencies, shelter providers and homeless families to ensure that this educational mandate is effectively implemented in Connecticut.

The purpose of the Connecticut plan is to inform local school districts of their responsibilities for the education of homeless, school-aged children and youth, to establish policies which will bring the state into compliance with the law and to specify local, regional and statewide activities to ensure that homeless students will be provided with the educational services for which they are eligible.

Section I

(1) **NATURE OF THE PROBLEM:**

A homeless individual is one who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence or has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations.

The issue of homelessness and the problems of the homeless are ones that surfaced unexpectedly in Connecticut during the decade of the 80's. During a period of growing affluence for the state, increasing numbers of Connecticut citizens have been identified as being without homes and often without other necessities of life.(1)

Nationwide recent studies have drawn similar conclusions:

- The total number of homeless persons is growing each year.
- A significant portion of the increased numbers of homeless persons includes single mothers and two parent families.
- Although homelessness is concentrated in the largest cities in the nation, small cities and towns are also experiencing an increase in their homeless populations (2).

(1) People without Homes, The Problem and the Response in the State of Connecticut, Department of Human Resources, February, 1988, P 1.
(2) Ibid, P1

The Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth acquired data from several sources (3) to identify the school-age, homeless population for the 1987-88 fiscal year.

Results of the findings are as follows:

- 3555 of Connecticut's school-age children were in need of temporary shelter during the past year.
- 2011 were elementary school students, 469 were middle school students and 1015 were high school students.
- The Connecticut municipalities having the greatest numbers of homeless school age children in temporary shelters were Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury, Middletown and Danielson.
- Homeless children and youth were reported in urban, suburban and rural school districts.
- Numerous homeless children have attended three, and as many as five different schools during this time frame.
- Homeless students are a diverse population. They represent all grade levels, all achievement levels, all family backgrounds.
- For a child in Connecticut, homelessness can mean a few nights in a crisis shelter, living at a campsite or in the family car, or six months to a year in a temporary shelter.
- Twelve percent of the adolescents in youth shelters experienced shelter living for the entire 1987-88 fiscal year.

(3) Connecticut Department of Human Resources, Annual Reports Shelters for Homeless 1987-1988, Department of Children and Youth Services, Annual Report 1987-1988, Survey of family shelters, youth shelters, school districts, fall, 1988.

These findings provide a basis from which we can proceed, but they do not tell us about families sharing a single residence or about runaway youths. They do not include the highly transient families who do not seek shelters nor do they include those unknown students who continue to "fall between the cracks".

The experience of being uprooted from familiar, home surroundings has an impact emotionally, socially, physically and academically on these children and youth. They can experience educational problems resulting from unstable school attendance, which contributes to gaps in their academic skills. Meaningful education is extremely difficult to attain without the stability of a permanent home.

Section II

## DEFINITIONS RELATED TO SECTION VII(B) OF THE STEWART B. McKINNEY ACT AND AN ANALYSIS OF PERTINENT CONNECTICUT LAW

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, PL 100-77. Title VII-B of law seeks to ensure that homeless children and youth are afforded a free and appropriate public education. Residency requirements should not be a barrier to the education of said students.

### I. General Statement

The laws of the State of Connecticut assure that each homeless child or youth has access to free public education as provided to all residents of the State. Review procedures providing due process of law are statutorily prescribed. The law prescribes an adjudicative review on the local and state level to resolve disputes on the placement of a child in the public school system. Clearly, the laws of the State are consistent with provisions of Section 721 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

### II. School Attendance

Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes (hereinafter C.G.S.), states, in pertinent part, the following: "All parents and those who have the care of children shall..... instruct them or cause them to be instructed. Each parent or other person having control of a child seven years of age and over and under sixteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public day school regularly. . . unless the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools." (Emphasis added.)

## III. School Accommodations

### A. In General

C.G.S. Section 10-186 prescribes that each local or regional board of education provide school accommodations to all school age children. C.G.S. Section 10-186(a) states, in pertinent part, the following: Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school may attend public schools. . . . . " (Emphasis added.)

### B. Hearing Process

An adjudicative review embodying due process of law is available to any parent, guardian, emancipated minor, pupil eighteen years of age or older, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school in the event a pupil is denied school accommodations, including a denial based on an issue of residency. In a nutshell, the parent whose child is denied school accommodations may initiate a review in the form of a hearing before the local or regional board of education. The entire process must be completed within twenty calendar days. If the parent is aggrieved by the decision of the local or regional board of education, an appeal may be filed with the State Board of Education. The entire appellate process including the conduct of a hearing and the rendering of a decision, must be completed within forty-five calendar days.

### C. Homeless Children and Youth

The substantive law that is applied to the aforementioned procedure when addressing homeless children is embodied in C.G.S. Section 10-253, as amended by Public Act 87-179 (see Appendix A). This public act prescribes the educational duties and fiscal responsibilities of local and regional boards of education when school age children live in "temporary shelters".

"Temporary shelters" are defined broadly. Public Act 87-179 defines "temporary shelters" as ". . . facilities which provide emergency shelter for a specified, limited period of time."

The law prescribes the legal responsibility of a board(s) of education presented with a homeless, school-age child. Public Act 87-179 states, in pertinent part, the following: "Children in temporary shelters shall be entitled to free school privileges from either the school district in which the shelter is located or the school district in which the child would otherwise reside, if not for the need for temporary shelter." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, any homeless school age child will receive free school privileges while living in a temporary shelter located in the State of Connecticut.

Also, the fiscal duty to pay for the educational costs of the homeless child living in a temporary shelter is prescribed in the law which states "The school district in which the child would otherwise reside, if identified, shall either pay tuition to the school district in which the temporary shelter is located for the child to attend school in that district or shall continue to provide educational services, including transportation, to such child. If the school district where the child would otherwise reside cannot be identified, the school district in which the temporary shelter is located shall be financially responsible for the educational costs for such child."

IV. Equity in Education

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-4a, the educational interests of the state include the concern that ". . .each child shall have for the period prescribed in the general statutes equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of education experiences." A process of review providing due process of law is prescribed in C.G.S. Section 10-4b.

V. School Records

Sec. 722 (e) (6) (A) of the McKinney Act states "The school records of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school district." In response to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Buckley Amendment), school districts have developed policies and procedures relating to the access to student records. They may want to review their individual policy regarding student records to include this provision of the McKinney Act.

C.G.S. Section 11-8 requires all public agencies, including local and regional boards of education, to maintain its records in accordance with the records retention schedule established by the State Records Administrator. The law requires the filing of retention schedules or the compliance with minimum state retention schedules.

Regarding access to school records, C.G.S. Section 10-15b states, in pertinent part, the following: Either parent or legal guardian of a minor student shall . . . be entitled to knowledge of and access to all educational, medical, or similar records maintained in such student's cumulative record. . ." In addition Sec. 46b-56(e) states that "A parent not granted custody of a minor child shall not be denied the right of access to the academic, medical, hospital or other health records of such minor child unless otherwise ordered by court for good cause shown."

Section III

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal for the Connecticut State Department of Education Homeless Student Plan is to ensure that each homeless student has access to a free and appropriate public education on an equal basis with all other students in the state. To secure that goal, the following objectives are proposed:

Objective 1:

To address the school of origin/school of residence question and how it relates to school enrollments and transfers for homeless students.

Connecticut Public Act 87-179 as discussed in Section II of the plan, was signed into law in July, 1987. It ensures that local procedures do not block a homeless student's school enrollment. A letter, from the Director of the Division of Education Support Services of the CSDE was sent to all school superintendents in March, 1988, interpreting the law and stating that residency requirements should not pose any barriers to the education of homeless students. (See Appendix B)

Activities:

Communicate statutory responsibilities to districts and provider agencies

Obtain feedback from school districts concerning PA 87-179 to determine if any changes are necessary.

Objective 2:

To develop procedures for the resolution of any disputes regarding the educational placements or homeless children and youth.

A. C.G.S. Section 10-186 prescribes that each local or regional board of education provide school accommodations to all school children. C.G.S. Section 10-186 states, in pertinent part, the following: "Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school may attend public school.

B. Hearing Process:

An adjudicative review embodying due process of law is available to any parent, guardian, emancipated minor, pupil eighteen years of age or older, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school in the event a pupil is denied school accommodations, including a denial based on an issue of residency. The parent whose child is denied school accommodations may initiate a review in the form of a hearing before the local or regional board of education. This entire process must be completed within twenty calendar days. If the parent is aggrieved by the decision of the local or regional board of education, then an appeal may be filed with the State Board of Education.

The entire appellate process, including the conduct of a hearing, and the rendering of a decision, must be completed within forty-five (45) calendar days.

Activities:

Accept complaints through the Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Refer cases, as necessary, to the Department's Office of Legal Affairs for review and opinion.

Objective 3:

To encourage school districts to provide a variety of learning options in order to expedite homeless students' access to public education.

Activities:

Encourage the use of in-school and after school tutoring programs for students who have lost time in school.

Encourage timely identification and assessment of homeless students in order to provide the educational services for which they are eligible.

Increase the awareness of the regular classroom teachers through training sessions and publications from the office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

Recognize exemplary shelter/school programs and alternative school programs and encourage replication where appropriate.

Objective 4:

To provide technical assistance to local school districts.

Activities:

Establish a statewide network of recognized experts including providers, educators and advocates, who are knowledgeable regarding the particular needs of homeless students and the social agencies which serve them.

Conduct in-service training programs relating to family homelessness and domestic violence, and in particular, their impact on children and youth.

Convene a statewide conference on homeless children and youth annually.

Objective 5:

To develop guidelines for improving the coordination between social service agencies, temporary shelters and local school districts.

Activities:

Identify contact persons in each school district and in each temporary shelter who will be responsible for facilitating student enrollments and program continuity.

Recognize and document existing coalitions and working models of coordination between temporary shelters and LEA's. Promote their replication.

Encourage local networking between providers of primary health care and mental health care for homeless families and their children.

Establish a format for effective outreach to identify homeless students and to enroll them in school.

Objective 6:

To include long-term homeless students in the definition of the "at-risk student population" so that they will be eligible for services available to such students.

Activities:

Include homeless students in existing management information systems for at-risk students.

Include homeless students in absentee prevention programs, student assistance programs and drop out prevention programs.

Encourage school-sponsored enrichment programs for shelter children and youth.

Objective 7:

To eliminate delays in enrollment due to local school district student records requirements. Reasonable lead time for obtaining student records of homeless children has been granted successfully by many districts. C.G.S. Section 11-8 requires all public agencies, including local and regional boards of education to maintain records in accordance with the records retention schedule established by the State Records Administrator. The law requires the filing of retention schedules or the compliance with minimum state retention schedules. The March 1988 letter sent to all superintendents of schools describing PA 87-179, indicates appropriate requirements concerning the availability of the records of homeless students.

Activities:

Distribute publications from the Office of Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

Assist in generating local solutions that ensure the transfer of student records in a timely fashion as required by PA 87-179.

Objective 8:

To ensure equity for each child pursuant to CGS 10-4a, the educational interest of the state include the concern that "...each child shall have for the period prescribed in the general statutes equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of educational experiences." A process of review providing due process is prescribed in CGS Section 10-4b.

Objective 9:

To serve as an information clearinghouse to increase public awarenesss of, and sensitivity to, the issues surrounding homelessness and the effects it has on children and youth.

Activities:

Conduct inservice training for school district and provider agencies:

Assist administrators and teachers to understand the needs of homeless students.

Assist non-school providers to understand the importance of maintaining ongoing communication with the schools.

Offer ways to teach children about the life situations of their peers within the context of the larger curriculum.

Teach homeless children the survival skills they will need.

Develop a series of phamplets for distribution to educators, providers and advocates which will focus on pertinent issues and report exemplary practices.

Conduct conferences on homeless children and youth

Distribute directory of local school district homeless children contact person to shelter providers

Communicate state and federal policy on the education of homeless children to school districts and provider agencies

Disseminate copies of the State Plan to all public school districts and shelter providers

Objective 10:

To continue an ongoing process of statewide assessment and data collection.

Activities:

Continue to work with other state agencies, including the Departments of Human Resources, Children and Youth Services, Income Maintenance, Labor, Health Services, and Mental Health to more clearly define the homeless student population and their needs.

Explore ways to expedite the data collection process through the use of appropriate school district and shelter contact persons.

Continue the needs assessment effort in conjunction with shelter providers.

Continue to improve local tracking systems.

Continue to serve as the CSDE's representative to the Statewide Interagency Council on the Homeless.

Section IV

## Administration and Evaluation of the State Plan

The preceeding objectives and corresponding activities are directed at educating homeless children and youth, homeless parents and state advocacy groups as to the rights of homeless students in Connecticut.

The Connecticut State Department of Education will continue to work cooperatively with local school districts and provider agencies to implement and monitor the objectives and activities as described in the plan.

The State Interagency Council on the Homeless which includes representatives from the Departments of Human Resources, Health Services, Labor, Income Maintenance, Children and Youth Services, Mental Health, Corrections and Education has been created to coordinate services to Connecticut's homeless population. In addition, CSDE has a Students-at-Risk Committee to address the needs of these youngsters. Both resources will contribute to the ongoing development and monitoring of the State Plan.

Continuing opportunities will be provided for interested agencies, organizations and individuals to support improvements in the administration of the plan. As necessary, the Department will establish new procedures and revise current ones in order to make them more responsive and effective for all concerned.

Provisions will be made to assist local school district in their efforts to meet the educational needs of homeless children and youth through collection of local data and reports, site visits, and technical assistance.

Finally, information concerning successful practices will be disseminated throughout the state by the Department of Education. The Office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth will encourage the adoption of successful practices and innovative educational techniques by local school districts which serve homeless students.

Appendix A

Substitute House Bill No. 6260
PUBLIC ACT NO. 87-179

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FURNISHING OF SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 10-253 of the general statues is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(a) Children placed out by the Commissioner of Children and Youth Services or by other agencies or persons, INCLUDING PRIVATE CHILDCARING OR CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES, and eligible residents of facilities operated by the Department of Mental Health who are eighteen to twenty-one years of age, shall be entitled to all free school privileges of the school district where they then reside as a result of such placement. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of subsection 10-76d, payment for such education shall be made by the board of education of the school district under whose jurisdiction such child would otherwise be attending school where such a school district is identified.

(b) The board of education of the school district under whose jurisdiction a child would otherwise be attending school shall be financially responsible for the reasonable costs of education for a child placed out by the Commissioner of Children and Youth Services or by other agencies in a private residential facility when such child requires educational services other than special education services. Such financial responsibility shall be the lesser of one hundred percent of the costs of such education or two and one-half times the average per pupil educational costs of such board of education for the prior fiscal year, section 10-76f. Any costs in excess of the board's basic contribution shall be paid by the State Board of Education on a current basis. The costs for services other than educational shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d.

(c) No board of education shall be required to provide school accommodations for any child whose legal residence is in another state unless the board has entered into an agreement concerning the provision of educational services and programs with the state or local educational agency of such state responsible for educating the child, the facility where the child is placed or the parent or guardian placing such child, and provided that a bond in a sum equal to the tuition payable for such child, issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state and conditioned upon the board, shall be filed with the treasurer of the school district in which such child is attending school by the parent or guardian or other person or organization in control of such child.

(d) Children residing with relatives or nonrelatives, when it is the intention of such relatives or nonrelatives and of the children or their parents or guardians that such residence is to be permanent, provided without pay and not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations, and for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1981, and each fiscal year thereafter, children, not requiring special education who are residing in any facility or home as a result of placement by a public agency, other than a local or regional board of education, an except as provided by subsection (b) of this section, shall be entitled to all free school privileges accorded to resident children of the school district in which they then reside. A local or regional board of education may require documentation from the parent or guardian, the relative or nonrelative, emancipated minor or pupil eighteen years of age or older that, the residence is to be permanent, provided without pay and not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations provided by the school district. Such documentation may include affidavits, provided that prior to any request for documentation of a child's residency from the child's parent or guardian, relative or nonrelative, or emancipated minor or pupil eighteen years of age or older with a written statement specifying the basis upon which the board has reason to believe that such child, emancipated minor or pupil eighteen years of age or older is not entitled to school accommodations.

(e) (1) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION:

(A) "TEMPORARY SHELTERS" MEANS FACILITIES WHICH PROVIDE EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR A SPECIFIED, LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME.

(B) "EDUCATIONAL COSTS" MEANS THE REASONABLE COSTS OF PROVIDING REGULAR OR SPECIAL EDUCATION, BUT IN NO EVENT SHALL SUCH COSTS EXCEED THE AVERAGE PER PUPIL COST FOR REGULAR EDUCATION STUDENTS OF THE ACTUAL COST OF PROVIDING SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS.

(2) CHILDREN IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL PRIVILEGES FROM EITHER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE SHELTER IS LOCATED OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE CHILD WOULD OTHERWISE RESIDE, IF NOT FOR THE NEED FOR TEMPORARY SHELTER. UPON NOTIFICATION FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE TEMPORARY SHELTER IS LOCATED, THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE CHILD WOULD OTHERWISE RESIDE, IF IDENTIFIED, SHALL EITHER PAY TUITION TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE TEMPORARY SHELTER IS LOCATED FOR THE CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL IN THAT DISTRICT OR SHALL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, TO SUCH CHILD. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THE CHILD WOULD OTHERWISE RESIDE CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE TEMPORARY SHELTER IS LOCATED SHALL BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL COSTS FOR SUCH CHILD. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THE CHILD WOULD OTHERWISE RESIDE DECLINES TO PROVIDE FREE SCHOOL PRIVILEGES, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THE TEMPORARY SHELTER IS LOCATED SHALL PROVIDE FREE SCHOOL PRIVILEGES AND MAY RECOVER TUITION FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE THE CHILD WOULD OTHERWISE RESIDE. IN THE CASE OF CHILDREN REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED IN OUT-OF-DISTRICT PROGRAMS BY EITHER A BOARD OF EDUCATION OR STATE AGENCY, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE CHILD WOULD OTHERWISE RESIDE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD'S EDUCATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A NEW RESIDENCE IS ESTABLISHED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT THE CHILD OR CHILD'S FAMILY RESIDES IN A TEMPORARY SHELTER.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July, 1, 1987.

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

*DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
Non Public School Administrators

FROM: Robert I. Margolin, Director, Division of Education Support Services

SUBJECT: Education of Homeless Children and Youth

DATE: March 23, 1988

Today, considerable attention is being focused on the plight of homeless individuals and families. The United States Congress responded to this concern with the passage of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, PL 100-77. Title VII-B of this law seeks to ensure that children of homeless individuals and youth are afforded a free and appropriate public education. Residency requirements should not pose any barriers to the education of homeless individuals. With this in mind, I am forwarding, for your information, an analysis of Connecticut laws relating to this issue.

## I. General Statement

The laws of the State of Connecticut assure that each homeless child or youth has access to free public education as provided to all residents of the State. Review procedures providing due process of law are statutorily prescribed. The law prescribes an adjudicative review on the local and state level to resolve disputes on the placement of a child in the public school system. Clearly, the laws of the State are consistent with provisions of Section 721 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

## II. School Attendance

Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes (hereinafter C.G.S.), states, in pertinent part, the following: "All parents and those who have the care of children shall . . .instruct them or cause them to be instructed. . . Each parent or other person having control of a child seven years of age and over and under sixteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public day school regularly. . . unless the parents or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools." (Emphasis added.)



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III. School Accommodations

A. In General

C.G.S. Section 10-186 prescribes that each local or regional board of education provide school accommodations to all school age children. C.G.S. Section 10-186(a) states, in pertinent part, the following: "Each local or regional board of education shall furnish, by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child five years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school may attend public school. . . ." (Emphasis added.)

B. Hearing Process

An adjudicative review embodying due process of law is available to any parent, guardian, emancipated minor, pupil eighteen years of age or older, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school in the event a pupil is denied school accommodations, including a denial based on an issue of residency. In a nutshell, the parent whose child is denied school accommodations may initiate a review in the form of a hearing before the local or regional board of education. The entire process must be completed within twenty calendar days. If the parent is aggrieved by the decision of the local or regional board of education, then an appeal may be filed with the State Board of Education. The entire appellate process, including the conduct of a hearing and the rendering of a decision, must be completed within forty-five calendar days.

C. Homeless Children and Youth

The substantive law that is applied to the aforementioned procedure when addressing homeless children is embodied in C.G.S. Section 10-253, as amended by Public Act 87-179 (attached). This Public Act prescribes the educational duties and fiscal responsibilities of local and regional boards of education when school age children live in "temporary shelters".

"Temporary shelters" are defined broadly. Public Act 87-179 defines "temporary shelters" as ". . . facilities which provide emergency shelter for a specified, limited period of time."

The law prescribes the legal responsibility of a board(s) of education presented with a homeless school age child. Public Act 87-179 states, in pertinent part, the following: Children in temporary shelters shall be entitled to free school privileges from either the school district in which the shelter is located or the school district in which the child would otherwise reside, if not for the need for temporary shelter." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, any homeless school age child will receive free school privileges while living in a temporary shelter located in the State of Connecticut.

Also, the fiscal duty to pay for the educational costs of the homeless child living in a temporary shelter is prescribed in the law which states "The school district in which the child would otherwise reside.

if identified, shall either pay tuition to the school district in which the temporary shelter is located for the child to attend school in that district or shall continue to provide educational services, including transportation, to such child. If the school district where the child would otherwise reside cannot be identified, the school district in which the temporary shelter is located shall be financially responsible for the educational costs for such child."

IV. Equity in Education

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-4a, the educational interests of the state include the concern that ". . . each child shall have for the period prescribed in the general statutes equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of education experiences." A process of review providing due process of law is prescribed in C.G.S. Section 10-4b.

V. School Records

Sec. 722 (e) (6) (A) of the McKinney Act states "The school records of each homeless child or youth shall be maintained so that the records are available, in a timely fasion, when a child or youth enters a new school district." In response to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Buckley Amendment), school districts have developed policies and procedures relating to the access to student records. They may want to review their individual policy regarding student records to include this provision of the McKinney Act.

C.G.S. Section 11-8 requires all public agencies, including local and regional boards of education, to maintain its records in accordance with the records retention schedule established by the State Records Administrator. The law requires the filing of retention schedules or the compliance with minimum state retention schedules.

Regarding access to school records, C.G.S. Section 10-15b states, in pertinent part, the following: Either parent or legal guardian of a minor student shall . . . . be entitled to knowledge of and access to all educational, medical, or similar records maintained in such student's cumulative record. . . ." In addition Sec. 46b-56(e) states that "A parent not granted custody of a minor child shall not be denied the right of access to the academic, medical, hospital or other health records of such minor child unless otherwise ordered by court for good cause shown."

The Department has submitted a grant applicaotion to the federal government to establish an office of Education of Homeless Children and Youth in the State Department of Education. If grant funds are received a coordinator will be appointed who will be responsible for developing and implementing a State plan to ensure that homeless children and youth are able to take advantage of their right to a free public education and continue their schooling.

If you have any questions in regard to this issue, you may contact Robert E. Blesh, Coordinator, Office of Homeless Children and Youth, Bureau of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. He may be reached at 638-4277.